

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 9, and 10 constitute the pending claims in the present application. Applicants add new claim 15. Support for the subject matter of this claim can be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been entered. Specifically, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to Figures 3 and 5 which provide various organs (i.e., tissues) isolated from ELN +/- and ELN -/- mice and maintained in culture. Further explicit support can be found in the following passages: page 6, lines 7-8; page 6, lines 13-15; page 9, lines 19-22; page 11, lines 9-12; page 21, lines 3-6; page 21, lines 18-19; and page 21, lines 29-30. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks. Issues raised by the Examiner will be addressed below in the order they appear in the prior Office Action.

1. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Keating et al. in view of Wydner et al. Applicants traverse this rejection and contend that the rejection is moot in light of the amended claims.

Applicants maintain the arguments of record and contend that the claims are patentable in light of the cited prior art references. Keating et al. and Wydner et al. fail to satisfy the criteria established by case law and detailed in the MPEP necessary to anticipate or render obvious the claimed subject matter. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of claims directed to commercially relevant subject matter, Applicants have amended the claims to depend upon the allowable subject matter described by claims 1 and 2. Applicants' amendments are not in acquiescence to the rejection, and Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims of similar or differing scope. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 5, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Reitamo et al. in view of Keating et al. and in view of Wydner et al. Applicants traverse this rejection and contend that the rejection is moot in light of the amended claims.

Applicants maintain the arguments of record and contend that the claims are patentable in light of the cited prior art references. The cited references fail to satisfy the criteria necessary to anticipate or render obvious the claimed subject matter. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of claims directed to commercially relevant subject matter, Applicants have amended the claims to depend upon the allowable subject matter described by claims 1 and 2. Applicants' amendments

are not in acquiescence to the rejection, and Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims of similar or differing scope. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

3. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1 and 2 are in condition for allowance.

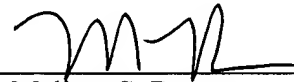
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Should an extension of time be required, Applicants hereby petition for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this submission be charged to **Deposit Account No. 18-1945**.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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